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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TEC: CCLC:

In re Patent Application of

NOVACEK ET AL.

Serial No. 09/215,519

Filed: December 18, 1998

Atty. Ref.: 968-76

Group: 3734

Examiner: Unassigned

For: SAFETY SYRINGE NEEDLE DEVICE WITH

INTERCHANGEABLE AND RETRACTABLE NEEDLE

FEB 22 1999

PLATFORM

February 22, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 1-12.

Add the following claims in lieu thereof:

--ুমির. A syringe comprising:

- (a) a hollow, axially elongated barrel;
- (b) an adapter carried by said barrel adjacent a distal end thereof and removable therefrom in response to rotation relative to said barrel, the adapter carrying a needle and providing fluid communication with the interior of said hollow barrel;

